that except a few units in X-ray/C.T. Head Scan in Lok Nayak Jaiprakash Narain Hospital and X-ray machines in Guru Teg Bahadur Hospital, all equipments in the hospitals under Government of NCT of Delhi are functioning properly. The C.T. Scan in Gobind Ballabh Pant Hospital is being replaced. Maintenance/repair of equipments is a continuous process and whenever any equipment goes out of order, it is got repaired at the earliest possible mainly by relying on the Annual Service Contract. Purchase of spares and ancillaries takes time occasionally because items have to be imported at times.

(c) No, Sir. Government hospitals are working for the benefit of thousands of people and offering specialised patient care services.

(d) The Directorate General of Health Services/Ministry of Health and Family Welfare are periodically monitoring the functioning of hospitals. If any case of negligence or apathy comes to notice, action is initiated to punish those found responsible.

[English]

Subsidy to Ship Building Industry

*35. SHRI L. RAMANA :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have not taken any decision on the demands of the Indian Ship building industry for provision of subsidy;

(b) if so, whether the Indian shipyards are not at present receiving any Government subsidy for ship building or interest differential on the loans;

(c) if so, whether the ship building industry has urged the Government to look into their demands favourably, as the Indian shipyards are facing unfair competition in ship building as well as for exports;

(d) the time by which a final decision for providing subsidy to the ship building industry is likely to be taken;

(e) whether there is any proposal to frame a new policy for ship building industry; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) to (f) In order to revive the Shipbuilding Industry, a revised Pricing Policy for construction of ocean-going vessels in Indian Public Sector Shipyards was introduced in September, 1993 for a period of two years. The Policy, inter alia, envisaged availability of Shipbuilding subsidy of 30% over and above the basic price (20% payable by the Government and 10% by the shipowner) and availability of interest differential subsidy on loan of 9% upto an extent of 80% of the cost of the ship. The subsidy is being paid to the Shipbuilding orders concluded during the currency of the said Policy.

The Shipbuilding Industry has represented to the Government for extension of the subsidy scheme and also to include export orders, which is under consideration.

New Surface Transport Policy

*37. SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether 57th Annual Session of Indian Road Congress recently held at Nagpur made series of innovative recommendations of far reaching importance on new surface transport policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the details of fresh policy changes finalised/under consideration for strengthening network of roads to meet growing transportation requirements ?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) and (b) At the 57th session of Indian Roads Congress, issues relating to design, construction, maintenance, funding and management of roads and bridges were discussed. IRC's recommendations are duly considered by the Government in deciding on policy changes, updating of specifications, codes of practices and construction technology.

(c) The Government has recently approved of new policy initiatives with regard to acquisition of land and for attracting and facilitating private investment in National Highway development.

Population by 2040

*38. SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA:
SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "India will be most populous nation by 2040" appearing in the "Times of India" dated January 19, 1997;

(b) if so, the details of the study conducted in this regard; and

(c) the steps taken to check the growth of population?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Technical Group on Population Projections constituted by the Planning Commission under the chairmanship of Registrar General of India has prepared